

The Titusville Communicator

Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club



Titusville, Florida
February 2025
Vol 2, Issue 2

February SITREP

Paul- N6PDF, TARC President

The very first thing that you'll notice is the newsletter is different, in that I am forced to use an entirely different template in which to publish this document. My previous application stopped working this week, so I'm trying to do the best with what I have available. My previous documents have been done in Publisher, and my computer has started going on the fritz because of the age of my owned version of Publisher. So, I'm test driving various other programs. This one is in the Libre Office family, called Writer which is a clone of Word. There are many free templates available, as this one is ~ and the entire cost for the LibreOffice package is \$0.00, but they do kindly ask for donations, which if this becomes my standard package, I'll be glad to toss them a few sheckles. Please excuse the format issues while this gets corrected over the coming weeks. It will look better shortly...

Welcome! Now let's get down to business.

First and foremost ~ Thank you all for your ongoing participation and support of TARC and Amateur Radio. It's the members that make up the team that makes it successful. I appreciate each and every one of you for helping out in both big and small ways.

Special thanks to our officers and members of the Board of Directors. The membership doesn't always get to see the backstage efforts that go on, and I'm here to tell you ~ they very much earn their paychecks that they don't get! It's actually very challenging and sometimes frustrating to be back in the sausage making rooms, but when things successfully come together for our club ~ the pain and anguish quickly fades. Be sure and thank your friends and fellow members that have stepped up and taken an active rôle in making your club enjoyable and productive!

If you attended the Tuesday meeting this week, on the 25th at 7 PM, this will be old news ~ but for those who were unable to attend, here's an **update on the By-Laws** and where we stand on them.

The Board of Directors had some phone/online/Text/Email meetings on the status of voting on the latest version of the By-Laws we've been working on for the last full year, and there was a motion to go FULL STOP and reconsider some of the assumptions and policies that were in this revision. The Board voted on what should happen next, and

we've come to the decision to **continue the revision process** ~ and in fact, revisit and refine the basic reasons why the By-Laws needed revision in the first place. We have already started that process and will keep the membership informed of the progress as it happens. When it's ready, we will forward to the full membership for a vote.

It's possible that we got out in front of our skis on this one, and got ahead of ourselves. There was significant discussion on the topic of revision, but let me distill it down to some of the basic main elements.

1. We didn't start with a comprehensive and complete Mission Statement that everyone was fully supportive of. We had a mission statement, and this is what was initially written:

The mission of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club is be the premier amateur radio club in North Brevard county for the purpose of fostering ham radio training and participation, public service in the form of communications support to our community and to actively encourage cooperation with fellow ham radio operators and organizations.

We are openly soliciting inputs, commentary, critiques, and entirely new Mission Statements from our membership at this time. Please send your inputs to president@k4ksc.com and they will be placed into the active discussion.

2. We didn't have legal analysis of the By-Laws by a lawyer or other professional.

Since the By-Laws of literally hundreds of Amateur Radio clubs are publicly available, we constructed ours by reading dozens of other similar clubs By-Laws, and the format and content of our draft was either a word-for-word copy of active club's documents, or a very closely related text that made this draft workable for our club, it wasn't deemed necessary at the time to have the added expense of legal review ~ but there was significant and well-reasoned pushback on this topic, so we made the reasonable decision to not vote on these revisions just yet. Everyone agrees and has expressed agreement that the decades old By-Laws we operate under now are out of date and very much need revision ~ but we just haven't had the level of agreement on the final product that we thought we had.

I personally apologize and take full responsibility for any frustration or disturbance this decision to delay might be causing, but it's vitally important that we get the By-Laws 100 % right. We will pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and **continue to work on this important document**. Please be patient with us as we continue to try and do the best we can for our club and it's members.

Respectfully submitted :

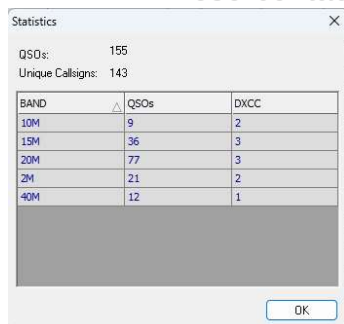
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul - N6PDF

Winter Field Day 2025

Here's an update on the final submission to the ARRL on our WFD station.

These contacts were made by four (4) operators running four (4) total stations, with three (3) operating at any one time. Two were mobile/portable manned by Roy – N4RKM and Al – HK6PZV, while the TARC trailer was manned by a rotating squad of operators, led by Barry – N4NMF that kept the contacts coming in. Thanks to all that participated, we had a great time because of our hosts, Tom & Sally, as we always do. Contest logs have been submitted to the WFD folks. We did have one of the Yeasu HF radios exhibiting power issues, but we think we've found the solution... More later down this newsletter. Big news !



BAND	QSOs	DXCC
10M	9	2
15M	36	3
20M	77	3
24M	21	2
40M	12	1

Mosquito Net Tailgate Party!

The reservations have been secured for the pavillion at Fox Lake Park for the Tailgate Party on March 22, 2025. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there ! Festivities begin at 7 AM and there will be goodies and refreshments available. See Attached Flyer! Share with your friends!

Introduction to Standing Wave Ratio – SWR 101

“Check your SWR!” is something you’ve likely heard a bunch of times. If you know what it means, and what it means to your amateur radio gear ~ great. If you’re not really sure, and it’s kind of confusing, I want to gently sneak up on an explanation of what it is, and what it does.

Imagine you have a jump rope, and you and a friend are holding each end. If you shake your end back and forth just right, you can make a smooth wave that moves back and forth without looking messy—this is like a “standing wave.” If it’s smooth, it’s going back and forth at it’s “resonant frequency” for that specific length and thickness of rope. If it’s not swung at the right frequency, a garbled tangled mess happens.

Now, let’s think about an antenna. It’s like that jump rope, but instead of moving rope waves, it deals with transmitting radio waves. When your radio or transmitter sends a signal to that antenna, the goal is to send out as much of that energy as possible into the air as efficiently as possible.

But here’s the problem: if the antenna isn’t a perfect match for the signal applied to it, some of that energy bounces back instead of going out. This is like if your jump rope had a knot in the middle—it would mess up the nice wave pattern. If the length isn’t right, it won’t work well at some frequencies, and if you change the length/thickness/material, it will change how it works.

The **Standing Wave Ratio (SWR)** tells us how much of the energy is going out (good) versus how much is bouncing back (bad). If the SWR is **1:1**, that means for every unit of RF energy input, then one unit of RF energy is being transmitted. Nothing is bouncing back. If it's **high**, like 3:1 or worse, a lot of energy is bouncing back, which means your antenna isn't working well. Too much bounce-back can even bounce back RF and severely damage your radio!

So, in simple terms: SWR helps us check if an antenna is doing its job well, making sure the energy goes out and doesn't just bounce back like a messed-up jump rope wave. It's all about efficiently turning RF energy in the transmitter, into RF energy in the atmosphere.

Another generous donation from AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc.



At TARC's February General Membership monthly meeting, it was decided that TARC needed a replacement HF radio for the Communications Trailer. The AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., offered to help with funding. At the meeting \$250 was raised from member contributions, and a shopping trip to HRO in Oviedo was planned for Thursday, 02-27-2025.

While on mission to purchase a replacement radio for the TARC Comm Trailer, the AA4HP Radio Sport Club Inc., decided to purchase a second ICOM 7300 Transceiver for donation to the Titusville Amateur Radio Club, TARC, so that the one remaining older model Yeasu radio can be used as a spare; and the training on the two identical new ICOM 7300 can be streamlined. The reasoning was that because several members of TARC already own the ICOM 7300, training for members should be something we can accomplish rather quickly and with ease.

Just so you all know, the stated purpose under which the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., is organized/incorporated:

"Charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, to provide Amateur Radio services for the general public, Training Amateur Radio contesters/Radio Sport operators, in compliance with Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission Regulations."

Thus, 'Streamlining Training' seemed like the right thing to do. Especially now that TARC member, Mike Daniels, KW4DX, has stepped forward to head-up TARC's Florida QSO Party participation this April. It is the desire of the AA4HP Radio Sport Club's Board of Directors to see TARC beat last year's score.

73 Stephanie – K4MVO



Note from Editor:

WOW!! That was an incredibly generous action by one of our most active, productive, and supportive members! Be sure to thank Stephanie personally next time you see her. This is just so far above and beyond that there are no words to describe it!

Not one but TWO brand new ICOM IC-7300 HF Transceivers !!!

THANK YOU STEPHANIE!!

Tom - KN4GLO has installed the two new radios into the TARC Trailer and is busy with the assembly and installation of the BandPass Filter Switching Module that he constructed and demonstrated at the February meeting.

Looking forward to seeing all this new hardware in action at the upcoming events!

Speaking of upcoming events:

The TI1RRC Central America Tour DXpedition that was in Costa Rica, is now 3F3RRC in Panama as of earlier this week. It is supposed to go until March 1, 2025, and possibly YN6RRC or H7RRC in Nicaragua until on or about March 7th.



Next Big Event:

Titusville Amateur Radio Club

The Mosquito net meets each Wednesday on 28.333 MHZ 7:00PM

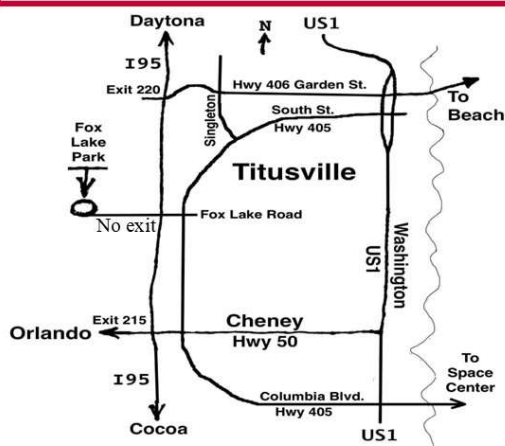
with George WG4ES

COME CELEBRATE OUR 33th. ANNIVERSARY



***MOSQUITO NET
TAILGATE 2025
FOX LAKE PARK
MARCH 22th at 7AM***

**Fox Lake Park is located at 4400 Fox Lake Road ,
Titusville, FL. Free Tailgating**



146.970 tone 107.2

**HOT DOGS, CHIPS & SODAS
WILL BE AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT KN4GLO Tom OR
KN4HPX Sally
Info 309-314-7190**

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
February 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Location: 19 N. Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32796

Our Meeting was Called-to-Order: 7:00PM, by: President Paul Fee, N6PDF; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Vice President, Keith DeSoto, KN4AQJ. Our President, N6PDF, welcomed everyone, members and attendees introduced themselves; new members were recognized; he then established that we had a Quorum.

President Paul Fee, N6PDF, proceeded with the Motion to Approve New Members, and the following new and renewing members were Unanimously Approved: Lambert Mills, KK4LZA; Tom Downs, N4KFP; Ron McCracken, KG4CVL; Dennis Greene, KN4VKT; Patty Buie, family member; and Adrian Bissaillon, KA1OKP.

A Motion was made and Unanimously Approved to accept the meeting minutes as printed in our newsletter for both the months of November 2024; and January 2025. Treasurer, Steve Schindler, NA4SA, gave us the Treasurer's Report, and a Motion was made and Unanimously Approved to accept it.

President, N6PDF, introduced our guest speaker Tom Fuller, KN4GLO, who gave us an excellent presentation on TARC's recent Band Pass Filters Purchase for our Communications Trailer. He explained his unique design/configuration for installation, and mentioned he still wanted to change out the switches. Everyone thanked and applauded Tom for his tremendous effort on this technical project.

President, N6PDF, Announced the Weekly Net Times/Net Controls and frequencies, and Dave, KY4F, reminded everyone about the Monday evening, 2 Meter, Single-Side-Band Net, on 144.210 MHz, run by George Swire, WG4ES; although not an 'official' TARC net, many in our club participate.

Repeater Trustee, KY4F, gave a brief status report of TARC's Repeater Equipment – all up and running. President, N6PDF, stated that one repeater: needs reprogramming to return callsign to current owner, because it not a TARC asset at this time.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- a. New club By-Laws Status: N6PDF, Ongoing, reviewing input/responses from members.
- b. Inventory of Club Equipment Status: N4RKM, Ongoing, one more Repeater site to inventory.
- c. Comm Trailer Ramp Repair Status: Tom, KN4GLO, near completion, just, need to install new gasket. (This project is now just a bit over budget.)
- d. Band Pass Filters Acquisition: Tom, KN4GLO, acquisition completed, now just need to install.
- e. 501 (c) (3) Application Status: Stephanie, K4MVO, Ongoing, waiting on new Mission Statement and By-Laws, for new EIN.
- f. Testing for FCC Ham Radio Licensing through W5YI Hand-Off from Sherry, KU4ZO to Stephanie, K4MVO, Status: Completed, and already Barry, N4NMF, has submitted his application to K4MVO, to become a VE.
- g. Mosquito Net Anniversary 2025 TailGate at Fox Lake Park – March 22nd at 7AM: Status: Event coordinators, Tom, KN4GLO & Sally, KN4HPX, passed a sign-up sheet around for volunteers to assist in this event, and a flyer announcing the event

and planned activities is has been made available. President, N6PDF, and Treasurer, NA4SA are coordinating with County Parks and Recreation to submit new/additional required paperwork. (Completed)

New Business:

- a. Mission Statement and Club Future: Paul, N6PDF, spoke about the need to further define our club's purpose – one that may take us to at least the next 10 years, 2035. He asked for suggestions and input from members.
- b. Florida QSO Party sponsored by Florida Contest Group (*from their website*): <https://floridaqsoparty.org/>
"The 2025 Florida QSO Party will be held the weekend of April 26th – 27th, 2025.
Saturday 16:00:00Z (Noon EDT) – Sunday 01:59:59Z (9:59:59 PM EDT)
Sunday 12:00:00Z (8 AM EDT) – 21:59:59Z (5:59:59 PM EDT)"
After the meeting Mike Daniels, KW4DX, volunteered to lead TARC's participation in this annual activity. (Yay!)
- c. ARRL Field Day – June 28 – 29, 2025, Status: Need a team to coordinate.

President, N6PDF, ask for additional business from the floor, and the following items were discussed:

- a. Tom, KN4GLO, mentioned a need for replacement/new HF radio for our Communications Trailer, and Stephanie, K4MVO, from the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., offered to pay for the ICOM 7300, available at a discount at nearby HRO. Paul, N6PDF, pledged a donation. A Motion was made and unanimously approved to acquire the new radio through the additional donations from AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., and other donations. (After the meeting, our new Member Tom, N4KFP, made an additional generous donation.)
- b. Tom, KN4GLO, Winter Field Day Logs still need to be submitted. Deadline is March 1. President, N6PDF, will complete this task. (Completed 2/28/25)
- c. VP Keith, KN4AQY, asked if there is interest in a presentation on Robotics, and members affirmed positively they would welcome such a presentation. Mike, KW4DX, offered to help.
- d. Tom, KN4GLO, mentioned the July 4th, Thirteen Colonies Special Event – is there club interest in making it a club event. Stephanie, K4MVO, offered to bring food for grill.
- e. Barry, N4NMF, also mentioned the Costa Rica DX'pedition, and other hamming activities he has posted to our Facebook Page.
- f. Jay, NB4B, asked if there is interest in Digital HF presentation, by a fellow Ham he met at HamCation. Members indicated yes, and Paul, N6PDF, and Keith, KN4AQY, collected contact information from Jay.
- g. Stephanie, K4MVO, mentioned our current weekly informal get-together, Eat'n Meet'n, at Beef O'Brady's on Garden Street, and how they usually give us the back room to ourselves - whether we are 8 or 18 in attendance. She added that although there have been some staffing changes, and the food and service has declined a bit; we still prefer to meet there because they are still so accommodating to our group.
- h. VP, KN4AQY, suggested we add music to our events, to which, Stephanie, K4MVO, suggested we try it and invite the Titusville Mayor, and other officials to our ARRL Field Day activities. Mike, KC4JEM, suggested we invite the Fire Chief.

Our meeting was Adjourned, at 8:02 PM.

Following the meeting we enjoyed a lively social time, with a 50/50 Raffle, and Roy, N4RKM, with the winning ticket received \$30.50. We locked-up at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by
TARC Secretary, Stephanie Merritt, K4MVO